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RENEE LEON



At the time of writing this I am on maternity leave, happily engaged with the discovery and nurture of my new son born in July 1998.

Back in the world of work, I am the head of the Public International Law Branch in the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department in Canberra.

I started work with the Department as a paralegal in 1989 while I was completing my undergraduate studies as a mature-age student at the Australian National University, after travelling overseas and working in arts administration in Melbourne in my twenties. I graduated in 1993 with degrees in Arts and Law (Hons).

I worked for the Department in human rights law for four years, and human rights and international law remain my primary areas of interest. From 1993 to 1995 I worked on the development of a broad ranging Government strategy to improve access to justice, a project that led to my being given general responsibility for justice system matters from 1996 to 1998.

I have long been active in a number of community organisations, particularly in community legal centres and women's organisations. At present, I am the Convener of the ACT Women's Legal Centre and a member of the Management Committee of the ACT Women Lawyers Association.

My year in Newnham College Cambridge, where I took the LLM, was one of the most stimulating and fulfilling years of my life. Having specialised in international law in the LLM, I am delighted to have been appointed to an international law position where I expect to be making a valuable contribution to the public service while engaging in the work I love and enjoy.

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